# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# DEFENCE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4220
ANSWERED ON:10.04.2003
MID SEA CLASHES
AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO

**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government are aware of the increase of mid sea clashes;

(b) if so, the steps taken to prevent the recurrence of mid-sea clashes;

(c) whether the Navy and Coast Guard are asked to be vigil along the international boundary with the Sri Lanka; and

(d) if so, the other steps are taken in that regard?

## Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (d): A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4220 10.4.2003

Recently few incidents of clashes between the Indian fishermen and Sri Lankan fishermen have come to light. Joint patrolling by Indian Navy and Coast Guard is maintained along the International Maritime Boundary Line.The fishermen who violate the International Maritime Boundary Line are detained by the Coast Guard and handed over to State Fisheries Department for further actionIn addition, the Coast Guard carries out regular community interaction with the fishermen and advises them not to cross Boundary Line. Further, the State Government of Tamil Nadu has been advised to increase the penalties being currently levied on the erring fishermen.

Operations Review Meetings are held biannually alternatively in each country. In addition to this, International Maritime Boundary Line meetings are held in Palk Bay quarterly onboard ships of alternate countries.